

3.11 AESTHETICS

This section describes the current aesthetic character of Ames Research Center, the remainder of Moffett Field, and areas surrounding it in Mountain View and Sunnyvale. The analysis focuses on the visual character of these two areas, and on the views into and out of Ames Research Center.

A. Visual Character of Ames Research Center

This section describes the existing visual character of each of the four planning areas within Ames Research Center. Because of their heterogeneous character, several of the planning areas have been divided into multiple visual units.

1. NASA Research Park Area

The NASA Research Park area is roughly triangular, and can be divided into a number of distinct visual units, each with its own character, landscaping, and typical uses. The discussion that follows describes each of these units individually. Figure 3.11-1 shows the location of the visual units within the NASA Research Park.

a. Visual Unit 1: Western End of Shenandoah Plaza

The original plan for Shenandoah Plaza is clearly discernible and largely unchanged in this unit. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-2. The street grid still outlines a generous horse-shoe shaped central lawn surrounded by attractive historic Spanish Colonial Revival buildings, with their characteristic plain stucco walls, low-pitched red tile roofs, and terra cotta ornamentation. The formal axis of the lawn sweeps eastward unchecked to the Administration Building, pointing towards the immense streamlined form of Hangar 1. In addition to the lawn, the original design's rows of mature liquid amber trees have been preserved, and these two landscape elements combine to give the western end of Shenandoah Plaza a formal, park-like feel quite distinct from the surrounding landscape.

b. Visual Unit 2: Eastern End of Shenandoah Plaza

In the eastern half of the Shenandoah Plaza area, the original site plan is much less clear. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-3. This area was originally

designated as the industrial area of Shenandoah Plaza. Although historic original Spanish Colonial Revival structures remain, a large number of infill structures have been built in the stretch of land between the western end of Shenandoah Plaza and Hangar 1. These infill buildings are generally unobtrusive, but they are much smaller than the original buildings. They are predominantly used for storage and light industrial uses, and so are much more utilitarian in design than the historic structures. They are also placed more closely together. There are only minimal trees and landscaping in this unit. There is a small monument and plaza west of Building 3; the only other open space is a number of medium-sized parking lots.

c. Visual Unit 3: Southeastern Perimeter of the NASA Research Park Area
The outer perimeter of the southern part of the NASA Research Park area is characterized by sizeable open areas: the undeveloped land alongside the airfield that supports a small burrowing owl population, the undeveloped land between Cody Road and the new light rail station, the open expanse of asphalt of the California Air National Guard motor pool lot, and the broad turf area of the athletic fields that abut Highway 101, as shown in Figure 3.11-4. Unlike in Shenandoah Plaza, these open spaces are not formally landscaped, nor are they the central organizing features of the built environment around them. They do contribute to the NASA Research Park area's less built-up feel, and allow views east to the hangars and west to the coastal hills. The California Air National Guard motor pool lot and the recreation area adjacent to Highway 101 will be developed as part of the baseline.

d. Visual Unit 4: The Barracks

A roughly "L"-shaped group of barracks makes up the fourth visual unit in the NASA Research Park area, which is characterized by a dense clustering of bar-shaped buildings. Typical barracks are shown in Figure 3.11-5. The northern four buildings are empty, while the southern four are occupied by the 129th Army Reserve Command. The line of barracks that runs north-south is two stories tall and covered with white stucco. The buildings along the east-west arm of the "L" are three-story, gray concrete block structures with access from an outside corridor that runs the length of each building on each floor. These

FIGURE 3.11-1

LOCATION OF VISUAL UNITS



1. Western End of Shenandoah Plaza
2. Eastern End of Shenandoah Plaza
3. Southeastern Perimeter of the NASA Research Park Area
4. The Barracks
5. Exchange Area
6. Main Entry
7. Ames Campus
8. Bay View and North of Bay View
9. Stormwater Retention Pond
10. The Airfield
11. CANG Area
12. Hangars 2 and 3
13. The Golf Course and Munitions Bunkers
14. Berry Court Military Housing Area
15. Orion Park Military Housing Area
16. Military Office and Hotel Buildings
17. Undeveloped Land to the West
18. Office/Industrial Park to the Northwest
19. Mobile Home Park to the Northwest
20. North to the San Francisco Bay
21. The Lockheed Martin Complex
22. Residential Neighborhood Across Highway 101
23. Mixed-Use Strip Across Highway 101
24. Whisman Industrial Area Across Highway 101
25. The Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course

— Ames Research Center Property Boundary

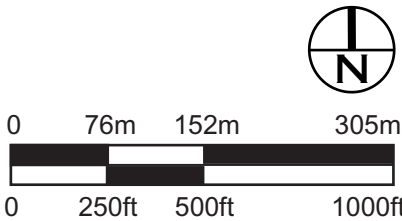




FIGURE 3.11-2

**VISUAL UNIT I
WESTERN END OF SHENANDOAH PLAZA**

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FIGURE 3.11-3

**VISUAL UNIT 2
EASTERN END OF SHENANDOAH PLAZA**

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FIGURE 3.11-4

VISUAL UNIT 3
SOUTHEASTERN PERIMETER OF THE NASA RESEARCH PARK

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FIGURE 3.11-5

**VISUAL UNIT 4
THE BARRACKS**

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buildings are normally used as short-term housing for students, reservists and visitors. Both sets of buildings are typical of the plain, functional style characteristic of most military architecture. Each of the barracks buildings is surrounded by open lawn. Streets and parking lots in this visual unit are edged with mature trees.

e. Visual Unit 5: Exchange Area

The various buildings associated with the DECA Commissary and the Navy Exchange are large, plain, architecturally undistinguished one-story buildings. Each is surrounded by a large parking lot with no internal landscaping, as shown in Figure 3.11-6. There are no historic buildings in this unit, and very little landscaping. Some undeveloped land remains, but most open space is covered in asphalt.

f. Visual Unit 6: Main Entry

With the exception of the historic gate house and iron fence, all of the buildings within this unit are modern and do not contribute to the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District, as shown in Figure 3.11-7. Much of this unit consists of U.S. Space Camp, most of which is cut off from the rest of Ames Research Center by a tall fence. Within the U.S. Space Camp compound, buildings are typically one-story high and clad in white metal with blue accenting. There is no significant landscaping within this visual unit.

2. Visual Unit 7: Ames Campus Area

To the northwest of the NASA Research Park area is the Ames Campus Area, NASA's original base of operations at Moffett Field. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-8. The Ames Campus area is densely-developed with almost one-hundred laboratory and office buildings on 95 hectares (234 acres) of land. Most of the buildings are utilitarian, unpainted concrete office and lab buildings constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. The majority of these buildings are two-stories tall, though there are a few one-story structures, and a smaller number of taller three- to four-story buildings. In addition to the concrete structures, there are numerous temporary trailers that house offices.

Perhaps the most striking features of the built landscape within the Ames Campus area are the wind tunnel complexes, some of which tower up to 25 meters (80 feet) above the ground. Their gigantic, unusual shapes give a distinctly industrial feel and an entirely different scale to this visual unit.

Within the Ames Campus area, streets are generally wide with generous planting strips on each side and allées of mature street trees, often plane trees. Parking lots are generally narrow and skirt the edges of buildings. Where larger parking lots occur, there is significant interior landscaping.

3. Visual Unit 8: Bay View and North of Bay View

Visual Unit 8 sits within the 100-year flood plain, and is almost entirely undeveloped. Facilities here are limited to the 12 meter (40 feet) tall steel frame of the Outdoor Aerodynamic Research Facility (OARF), soon to be removed, and a few small one or two-story concrete structures housing telecommunications equipment. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-9. The southern portion of the visual unit is undeveloped upland grassland habitat, with a small amount of seasonal wetlands, skirted by 4 meter (12-foot) high earthen berms along Stevens Creek to the west, and the airfield to the east. The northern portion of Visual Unit 8 consists of the Eastern and Western Diked Marshes, low open areas of wetlands bordered by roads. The dominant features of this visual unit are the expanse of low vegetation, and views across it to the development off of Shoreline Drive in Mountain View, the Ames Campus area, and the airfield.

4. Visual Unit 9: Stormwater Retention Pond

Visual Unit 9 is located northwest of the airfield and north of the Diked Marshes. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-10. It is divided from the latter by North Perimeter Road and the security fence. There are a few small structures along the southern edge, but the main features of this visual unit are a border of upland vegetation along north perimeter road, wide expanses of water in the stormwater retention pond, the western portion of which is owned by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). There are views across the road and pond to the East Bay Hills.



FIGURE 3.11-6

**VISUAL UNIT 5
EXCHANGE AREA**

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FIGURE 3.11-7

**VISUAL UNIT 6
MAIN ENTRY**

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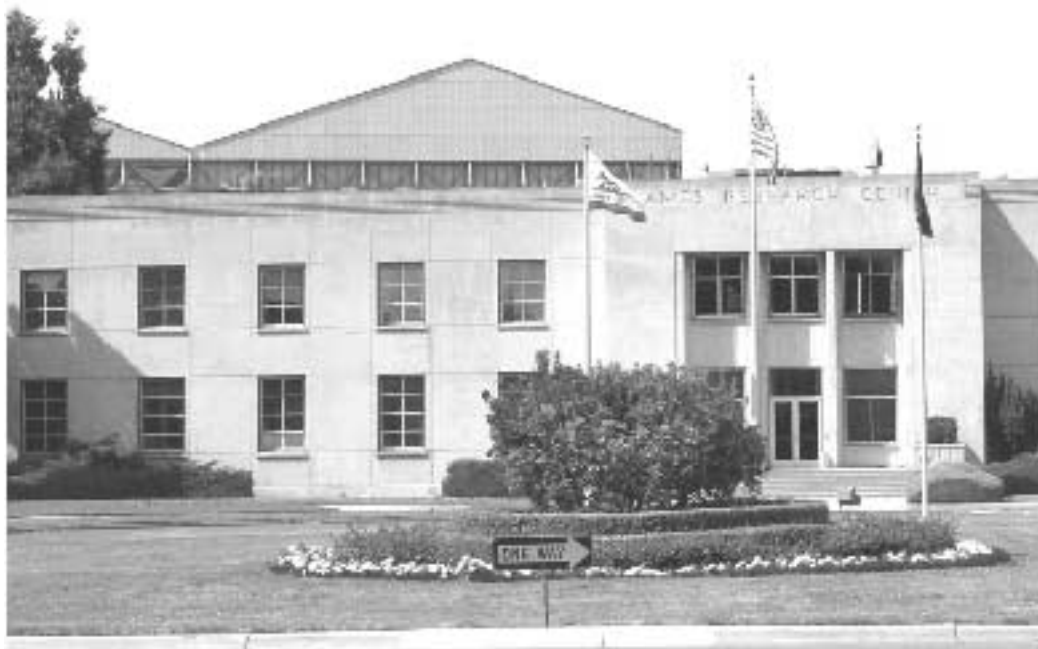


FIGURE 3.11-8

**VISUAL UNIT 7
AMES CAMPUS AREA**

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FIGURE 3.11-9

**VISUAL UNIT 8
BAY VIEW AND NORTH OF BAY VIEW**

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FIGURE 3.11-10

**VISUAL UNIT 9
STORMWATER RETENTION POND**

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5. Eastside/Airfield

This section describes the current visual character of the Eastside/Airfield development area. The Eastside/Airfield area is roughly triangular and is bordered by the airfield to the southwest, the Lockheed Martin complex to the east, and the Cargill Salt Ponds to the north.

a. Visual Unit 10: The Airfield

The airfield is an open expanse of concrete and grass median strips consisting of the Airfield and the undeveloped land adjacent to its southern end, as shown in Figure 3.11-11. The two runways are 60 meters (200 feet) wide, and 2,800 meters (9,200 feet) and 2,500 meters (8,100 feet) long respectively. The airfield divides the built-up western portion of Ames Research Center from the far less developed northeastern portion, and allows expansive views across the Center to Hangars 2 and 3 and the San Francisco Bay.

b. Visual Unit 11: CANG Area

The CANG area is roughly triangular in shape, with its two long sides delineated by Macon Road and the Lockheed Martin Complex to the east, and East Patrol Road to the northeast. The short, southern end of the triangle runs roughly parallel to the end of the runways. The area has buildings with adjacent land adequate for CANG to consolidate and construct mission essential facilities. Trees are numerous on the land, grass areas are sprinkled, medians have been landscaped, and land awaiting development has been left in its natural form. Open land is either airfield safety zones, identified for future facilities, identified for burrowing owls, recreation, or restricted areas necessary to maintain security.

c. Visual Unit 12: Hangars 2 and 3

The Hangar area is bordered by the CANG area to the south, Macon Road to the east and north, and the airfield to the west. It is almost entirely paved, and the dominant visual feature is the elegant parabolic form of the two historic hangars, as shown in Figure 3.11-13. There are also a number of small, architecturally-undistinguished buildings housing maintenance and repair

facilities. There are usually a number of military planes and helicopters on the pavement adjacent to the hangars.

d. Visual Unit 13: The Golf Course and Munitions Bunkers

The Golf Course area is bordered by East Patrol Road to the southeast, the Cargill salt ponds to the north, and the airfield and hangar areas to the west. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-14. It is characterized by the tree-lined fairways of the golf course and the raised mounds of the munitions bunkers. It is also home to a second parking area for recreational vehicles, and an electrical station. The golf course is skirted by undeveloped ruderal land.

B. Visual Character of the Remainder of Moffett Field

This section describes the visual character of the areas of Moffett Field not under NASA administration, and thus outside Ames Research Center: the Berry Court and Orion Park Military Housing Areas.

1. Visual Unit 14: Berry Court Military Housing Area

The Berry Court Military Housing area is tucked into a roughly triangular area between the barracks area, Highway 101, and the Space Camp compound. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-15.

The Berry Court Military Housing area has three distinct neighborhoods. The westernmost area consists of two-story wooden duplexes with attached carports. Exterior walls are painted white and are not ornamented. Roofs are low-pitched with reddish-brown shingles. Groups of three duplexes are clustered onto “U”-shaped courts that extend off of the central curvilinear road, which ends in a cul-de-sac. Each building is surrounded by open expanses of lawn, the primary feature of the landscape. There are also a few mature trees in front of each building.



FIGURE 3.11-11

**VISUAL UNIT 10
THE AIRFIELD**

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FIGURE 3.11-12

**VISUAL UNIT II
CANG AREA**

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FIGURE 3.11-13

**VISUAL UNIT 12
HANGARS 2 AND 3**

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FIGURE 3.11-14

**VISUAL UNIT 13
THE GOLF COURSE AND MUNITION BUNKERS**

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FIGURE 3.11-15

**VISUAL UNIT 14
BERRY COURT MILITARY HOUSING AREA**

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The central housing area, Berry Court, is part of the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District. These nine beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival residences are military officers' housing. All exterior walls are stucco painted a dark beige. There is minimal ornamentation around doors and windows; otherwise the buildings are quite plain. Roofs are low-pitched and covered in red tiles. Each house has an enclosed garage connected by an arcaded breezeway. Houses are placed symmetrically along a curvilinear road which ends in a large cul-de-sac with a broad oval green at its center.

The easternmost housing area is much larger than the other two. Here white two-story wooden buildings are divided into four-plexes with shared carports. Each unit has its own front patio with a wooden fence shielding it from view. Again, buildings are arranged in clusters off a central, curvilinear road. Instead of ending in a cul-de-sac, the main road continues on to connect to South Perimeter Road and the southern edge of Ames Research Center.

2. Visual Unit 15: The Orion Park Military Housing Area

The Orion Park Military Housing area is a roughly rectangular area bordered by Highway 101, Moffett Boulevard Extension, the Ames Campus area and Stevens Creek. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-16. Like the Berry Court Military Housing area, it has several distinct neighborhoods: Orion Park, and Macon Terrace II and III. Throughout, streets are curvilinear and two-lane, often with on-street parking. From the Orion Park Military Housing area, most of Ames Research Center is screened from view by landscaping, and by the 40- by 80-Foot Wind Tunnel and an electrical substation within the Ames Campus, the only portions of ARC that are visible. The description that follows describes the four neighborhoods within the Orion Park Military Housing area from north to south.

Orion Park, the northern edge of this visual unit, is characterized by white two-story wood and stucco buildings divided into six-plexes with low sloping red shingle roofs. Covered carports face the street. Each unit has its own front patio with a wooden fence shielding it from view. Buildings are arranged in U-shaped or rectangular clusters, each of which has a central green space.

Additional open spaces face the other sides of the units, many with play areas for children. Orion Park's border with the Ames Campus area is characterized by large open playing fields. There are numerous trees in this area, mostly evergreens. Otherwise, the landscape is dominated by open expanses of lawn.

Macon Terrace III is characterized by three-story, six-unit apartment buildings. These buildings are all white stucco with brown wooden fences at ground level, and brown balconies above. Each building has attached stucco car ports. The majority of the area is given over to two rows of these buildings, facing each other across a long linear greenway with play and barbecue facilities. The landscape here is characterized by grass and a variety of deciduous and evergreen trees.

Macon Terrace II faces the apartment buildings in Macon Terrace III across Stevens Street. It has two distinct areas. Currently, it is characterized by one- and two-story attached buildings with wood siding. These buildings alternate between one-story duplexes and six-unit buildings with a one-story unit on each end, and four two-story units in between. Paint colors alternate between white and cream. Each unit has a large yard with a wood fence. The only parking is on the street. Streets in this area are lined with an allée of mature deciduous trees. There is also a long linear park running between the two rows of housing. The landscape here is characterized by grass and deciduous trees.

Housing in the southern part of Macon Terrace II is predominantly two-story attached units in a variety of combinations including duplexes, four-plexes, and eight-plexes. There are also a number of the three-story, six-unit apartment buildings described above in Macon Terrace III. All of the buildings are white stucco with attached stucco carports. The landscape consists of grass and a combination of evergreen and deciduous trees.

3. Visual Unit 16: Military Office and Hotel Buildings

The final area in this visual unit is made up of military-associated uses: the Navy Lodge, the San Jose Military Processing Center, and the offices of the 129th Medical Squadron. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-17. This area



FIGURE 3.11-16

**VISUAL UNIT 15
ORION PARK MILITARY HOUSING AREA**

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FIGURE 3.11-17

**VISUAL UNIT 16
MILITARY OFFICE AND HOTEL BUILDINGS**

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resembles Visual Unit 5, with isolated buildings set in large parking lots. The buildings are plain stucco and concrete aggregate, and their primary decoration comes from banks of windows which accent the buildings' vertical or horizontal character.

C. Visual Character of the Surrounding Area

This section describes the current visual character of the areas surrounding Ames Research Center in Mountain View and Sunnyvale.

1. Visual Unit 17: Undeveloped Land to the West

Immediately to the west of Ames Research Center is Stevens Creek. The Creek is bordered by tall, mostly unvegetated dirt levees. A narrow asphalt recreational trail runs along the top of the western levy. Towards the center of Ames Research Center's boundary, a long, narrow Christmas tree farm abuts the Creek. Together, the Creek and the farm create a natural/agricultural buffer zone between Ames Research Center and Mountain View, as shown in Figure 3.11-18.

2. Visual Unit 18: Office/Industrial Park to the Northwest

Beyond this buffer strip is an office and light-industrial development characterized by predominantly two-story buildings in a mix of architectural styles, as shown in Figure 3.11-19. Most of the buildings are constructed of concrete, although there are a number of brick buildings, and a few buildings faced with wood. In most cases, buildings are set back with parking lots adjacent to the street. Main building entrances are generally off of these lots rather than the street. Most of the buildings date from the 1970s and 1980s, though there are some large new complexes of two- to three-story post modern buildings, especially along Shoreline Boulevard and L'Avenida. Very little vacant land remains within the current boundaries of the developed area, and the large open tracts in the eastern section are currently being developed. Exterior wall and roof colors are generally neutral, though most of the new buildings have brightly-colored accents.

Within this office/light-industrial visual unit, streets are landscaped, often with mature trees, and there is usually minor landscaping around buildings and within larger parking lots. Most of the area is visually shielded from Ames Research Center by a hedgerow of tall, bushy oleander and other similar plants.

3. Visual Unit 19: Mobile Home Park to the West

Towards the southern edge of the office/industrial area is a densely-settled mobile home park with more than 350 homes on 15 hectares (37 acres), as shown in Figure 3.11-20. All but one of the homes are one-story. Roads are quite narrow. There is some small-scale landscaping around individual units, and large palm trees at a few intersections. The entire development is bordered by a dense oleander hedge.

4. Visual Unit 20: North to the San Francisco Bay

To the north, Ames Research Center is bordered by the extensive open expanse of the Cargill salt ponds. To the northwest is Mountain View Shoreline Park. A strip of US Fish & Wildlife Service Preserve extends northeast from the end of the eastern air strip. A figure showing views of this area was not considered warranted and is therefore not included in this EIS.

5. Visual Unit 21: The Lockheed Martin Complex

To the east, Ames Research Center is bordered by the Lockheed Martin Complex. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-21. This sprawling complex of office and heavy industrial buildings includes a wide variety of architectural styles, most of them quite plain and industrial in appearance. Heights vary from one- to four-stories. Large areas of the complex are fenced off for security purposes, and no-trespassing signs feature prominently at all entrances. All of the buildings are surrounded by large surface parking lots with minimal landscaping. There are a few street trees, but no consistent pattern of vegetation.

6. Visual Unit 22: Residential Neighborhood Across Highway 101

Highway 101 presents a formidable visual and physical barrier between Ames Research Center and the areas on the south side of the freeway. Views of the



FIGURE 3.11-18

**VISUAL UNIT 17
UNDEVELOPED LAND TO THE WEST**

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FIGURE 3.11-19

**VISUAL UNIT 18
OFFICE/INDUSTRIAL PARK TO THE NORTHWEST**

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FIGURE 3.11-20

**VISUAL UNIT 19
MOBILE HOME PARK TO THE NORTHWEST**

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FIGURE 3.11-21

**VISUAL UNIT 21
THE LOCKHEED MARTIN COMPLEX**

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FIGURE 3.11-22

VISUAL UNIT 22
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ACROSS HIGHWAY 101

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neighborhood and the soundwall are shown in Figure 3.11-22. The freeway is eight lanes wide here, and is bordered on the western end of the Center's southern edge by sound barriers on both sides.

There are a number of different uses across Highway 101 in Mountain View and Sunnyvale. To the southwest is an older residential neighborhood with a variety of housing types ranging from multi-family two-story apartment complexes to duplexes to small, one-story detached single family homes. Within the heart of the residential neighborhood, streets are wide with narrow sidewalks and mature trees on the front lawns of the houses.

7. Visual Unit 23: Mixed-Use Strip Across Highway 101

Along Highway 101 and Moffett Boulevard, the residential area described above is bordered by a mixed-use strip that includes motels, restaurants, a mobile home park, a bar, and a gas station, as shown in Figure 3.11-23. These commercial buildings are one- to two stories tall in a variety of architectural styles. Many of the buildings are set back from the street with small parking lots in front.

8. Visual Unit 24: Whisman Industrial Area Across Highway 101

Directly south of Ames Research Center in the area bordered by Middlefield, Ellis and Whisman Streets is an expansive office and industrial park area, as shown in Figure 3.11-24. There are a variety of buildings within this visual unit. There are a few older, one-story industrial buildings near the center of the area, set back from the street with mature trees along their street frontages. The majority of the unit, however, is split between two large new office developments that have Netscape and Nokia as their primary tenants. The new buildings are faced with textured concrete with some detailing on facades and recessed windows and entrances. Most of these buildings are two stories high, although some reach three stories. They are all dark beige in color, with low-pitched red-tile roofs that give them a touch of Spanish Colonial Revival style.

Parking is in large linear lots with generous but immature landscaping. Each of the lots is punctuated by the distinctive slender peaked towers of the



FIGURE 3.11-23

**VISUAL UNIT 23
MIXED-USE STRIP ACROSS HIGHWAY 101**

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FIGURE 3.11-24

VISUAL UNIT 24
WHISMAN INDUSTRIAL AREA ACROSS HIGHWAY 101

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treatment stations for the contaminated groundwater that underlies this entire area. Part of the land within this visual unit remains vacant.

9. Visual Unit 25: The Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course

The Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course, 14 hectares (35 acres) of which belong to ARC, is located to the southeast of Ames Research Center. Views are shown in Figure 3.11-25. This large green space provides a counterpoint to the development that surrounds it.

D. Views from Ames Research Center

Views within and out of Ames Research Center vary widely depending on location. Because the Center's topography is almost flat, even elements as small as landscaping and low buildings block most sight lines across Ames Research Center. Only the tallest structures, such as the hangars and the wind tunnels, are visible outside of their immediate area.

The main views out of Ames Research Center are of the coastal hills to the west, the Shoreline Drive development to the northwest, the Cargill Salt Ponds to the north, the East Bay hills to the east, and the Mt. Hamilton Range to the south. The nondescript architecture of the Lockheed Martin complex is also visible from the southeast side of Ames Research Center.

E. Views into Ames Research Center

The essentially flat topography of Ames Research Center extends for miles around it, so none of the areas abutting the Center have a clear view of the facilities. Lines of sight into Ames Research Center are almost always obstructed by landscaping and development. Only the tallest features are visible, even from the frontage road just across Highway 101.

Of the features visible from outside Ames Research Center, by far the most striking are the towering parabolic forms of the airship hangars, each of which is nine-stories tall and encloses approximately 3 hectares (8 acres) of land. Hangar 1, the first hangar at Moffett Field, was completed in 1933 to house the dirigible, the USS Macon. It is the primary landmark within Ames Research Center and the most visible part of it from the north and west. Hangars 2 and 3, on the other side of the airfield, were constructed during World War II to house the revitalized Naval lighter-than-air program. They stand out strongly against the salt ponds that slope down to the Bay, and are especially visible from the Lockheed Martin complex and the eastern side of the Center in general. The soaring forms of the three hangars against the backdrop of the Bay have made Moffett Field one of the most distinctive landscapes in the Bay Area for more than 60 years.

The wind tunnels are the other feature of Ames Research Center visible for long distances. Given their placement on the site, they are most visible from the northwest, although it is possible to get occasional glimpses of them from the predominantly residential neighborhood to the southwest of Moffett Field across Highway 101.

All of these features are visible from parts of the coastal hills to the west, the East Bay hills to the east, and the Mt. Hamilton Range to the south.

F. Protected Trees

Santa Clara County has established a Tree Preservation and Removal Ordinance (County Code Division C16) to establish and maintain tree cover, protect property values, preserve aesthetic resources, prevent erosion, counteract air pollution, provide wind protection, maintain climatic balance, provide habitat, and to protect community and historic assets. The ordinance protects all qualified trees on both public and private land. Among other reasons, a tree of any species qualifies if it is:



FIGURE 3.11-25

**VISUAL UNIT 25
THE SUNNYVALE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE**

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- A single-trunk tree with a diameter of at least 30 centimeters (12 inches), as measured at 137 centimeters (4.5 feet) above the ground or below the lowest branch, whichever is lower.
- A multiple-trunk tree with a diameter of at least 61 centimeters (24 inches), as measured 137 centimeters (4.5 feet) above the ground or below the lowest branch, whichever is lower.
- Of special significance to the community.

According to the ordinance, any tree that qualifies as a protected tree may not be removed without having first obtained a permit unless it is irreversibly diseased or dead, or if it represents a hazard. In order to obtain a permit, the applicant must submit plans that include a plan to replant trees of similar types, including native trees where the protected tree to be removed is a native.¹

Although NASA is a federal agency and thus is not subject to the County's protected tree regulations, it has agreed to comply with them wherever possible. In order to establish which trees at Ames Research Center qualify as protected tree, NASA surveyed the entire ARC during the summer of 2001. The Berry Court and Orion Park Military Housing areas were not surveyed because they are not under NASA control. Figures 3.11-26 through 3.11-28 show the results of the tree survey. As shown in these figures, there are protected trees in all of the planning areas except the Bay View area.

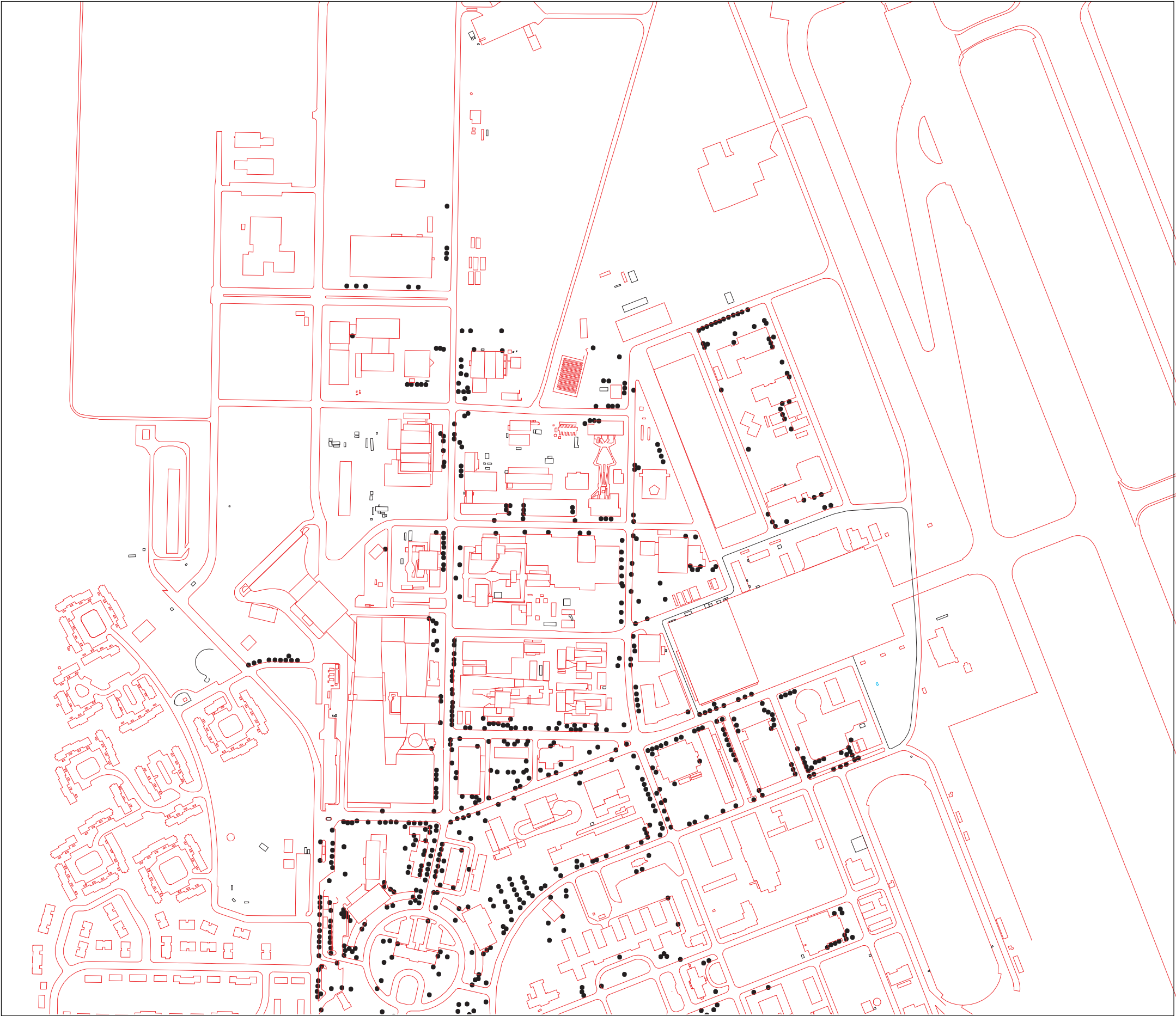
1. Ames Campus Area

In the Ames Campus area, protected trees are primarily located along streets or in planting strips in parking lots. There are also a few areas where trees are planted alongside existing buildings. Finally, there is a small number of protected trees clustered in the undeveloped area south of the administration building.

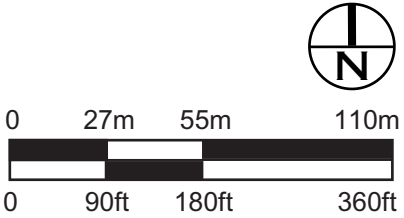
¹ Santa Clara County Ordinance No. NS-1203.107, §1, 2-11-97.

FIGURE 3.11-26

**PROTECTED TREE LOCATIONS:
BAY VIEW AND AMES CAMPUS AREAS**



● Protected Tree



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Figure 3.11-27

Figure 3.11-26



FIGURE 3.11-27

**PROTECTED TREE LOCATIONS:
AMES CAMPUS AND
NASA RESEARCH PARK**

● Protected Tree

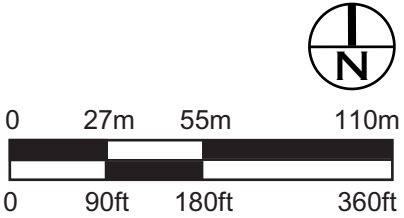


FIGURE 3.11-28

PROTECTED TREE LOCATIONS:
NOTHERN PORTION OF
EASTSIDE/AIRFIELD

No protected trees exist in the southern portion of Eastside/Airfield.

● Protected Tree



2. NRP Area

Within the NRP area, the pattern of protected tree distribution is not as regular as in the Ames Campus area. Within the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District, there are comparatively few protected trees, which are for the most part clustered in open space areas or grouped near buildings. The only areas where trees line a roadway are along Clark Memorial Drive, the entrance road, and a small strip along South Akron Road in front of Building 20. In the remainder of the NRP area, protected trees are primarily lining the edges of roads and parking lots, or clustered around buildings. There are a few open areas adjacent to the athletic fields along Highway 101 and next to the Exchange, where trees are more loosely grouped.

3. Eastside/Airfield Area

In the Eastside/Airfield area, protected trees are limited to the golf course, and the southernmost of the areas currently occupied by the California Air National Guard.

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AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT: AESTHETICS